

House File 23 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 23

BY FRY and A. MEYER

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the requirements for a prescribing
- 2 psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional
- 3 prescription certificate.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 154B.1, subsections 3 and 5, Code 2023,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. "*Collaborative relationship*" means a cooperative
4 working relationship between a prescribing psychologist or
5 a psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate
6 and a ~~licensed physician in the provision of patient primary~~
7 care provider who oversees the patient's general medical care,
8 including diagnosis and cooperation in the management and
9 delivery of physical and mental health care.

10 5. "*Physician*" means a person licensed to practice medicine
11 and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state
12 ~~who is board-certified~~ in family medicine, internal medicine,
13 pediatrics, psychiatry, or another specialty who prescribes
14 medications for the treatment of a mental disorder to patients
15 in the normal course of the person's clinical medical practice
16 pursuant to joint rules adopted by the board of psychology and
17 the board of medicine.

18 Sec. 2. Section 154B.10, subsection 1, paragraphs d and e,
19 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

20 ~~d. Within five years immediately preceding the date of~~
21 ~~application, successfully~~ Successfully completed a postdoctoral
22 master of science degree in clinical psychopharmacology
23 approved by the board of psychology and the board of medicine
24 pursuant to joint rules adopted by both boards. The program
25 shall at a minimum include coursework in neuroscience,
26 pharmacology, psychopharmacology, physiology, and appropriate
27 and relevant physical and laboratory assessments.

28 ~~e. Within five years immediately preceding the date~~
29 ~~of application, has~~ Has been certified by the applicant's
30 supervising physician as having successfully completed a
31 supervised and relevant clinical experience in clinical
32 assessment and pathophysiology and an additional supervised
33 practicum treating patients with mental disorders. The
34 practica shall have been supervised by a trained physician.
35 The board of psychology and the board of medicine, pursuant to

1 joint rules adopted by the boards, shall determine sufficient
2 practica to competently train the applicant in the treatment of
3 a diverse patient population.

4 Sec. 3. Section 154B.12, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 2. When prescribing psychotropic medication for a patient,
7 the prescribing psychologist or the psychologist with a
8 conditional prescription certificate shall maintain an ongoing
9 collaborative relationship with the ~~licensed physician~~ primary
10 care provider who oversees the patient's general medical care
11 to ensure that necessary medical examinations are conducted,
12 the psychotropic medication is appropriate for the patient's
13 medical condition, and significant changes in the patient's
14 medical or psychological condition are discussed.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 Under current law, to be granted a conditional prescription
19 certificate, an applicant who holds a current license to
20 practice psychology in the state, among other requirements,
21 must within five years immediately preceding the date of
22 application, have both successfully completed a postdoctoral
23 master of science degree in clinical psychopharmacology
24 approved by the board of psychology and the board of medicine,
25 and have been certified by the applicant's supervising
26 physician as having successfully completed a supervised
27 and relevant clinical experience in clinical assessment and
28 pathophysiology and an additional supervised practicum treating
29 patients with mental disorders. This bill retains both of
30 these requirements but eliminates the condition that these
31 requirements must have been completed within the five years
32 immediately preceding the date of application for a conditional
33 prescription certificate.

34 Current law requires that when prescribing psychotropic
35 medication for a patient, the prescribing psychologist or

1 the psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate
2 shall maintain an ongoing collaborative relationship with the
3 licensed physician in the provision of patient care. The bill
4 instead provides that the ongoing collaborative relationship
5 be with the patient's primary care provider who oversees the
6 patient's general medical care, rather than the patient's
7 licensed physician.

8 The bill also redefines "physician" for the purposes of Code
9 chapter 154B (psychology). Current law defines "physician"
10 to mean a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery
11 or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state who is
12 board-certified in a speciality who prescribes medications
13 for the treatment of a mental disorder. The bill removes the
14 condition that the licensed person also be board-certified in
15 the speciality.